

DIVISION OF MINES	CHAPTER: V Investigations
PROCEDURES MANUAL	
	PROCEDURE NO: 1.05.02
	ISSUE DATE: January 1, 1997
SUBJECT: Inundation of	LAST REVISED: 10/00
Water and Gas	

OBJECTIVE AND INTENT

To provide procedures for investigation of an inundation incident at an underground mine involving water or gas in order to safely and efficiently determine causes and address necessary preventive measures to control reoccurrence.

PROCEDURE

1. ARRIVAL AT THE MINE SITE

- A Closure Order may be issued under Section 45.1-161.91 A. (ii) as may be necessary to preserve the scene of such accident during the investigation of the accident.
- Ensure that investigation efforts are handled in a safe manner by adhering to the following preliminary precautions:
 - a. Ensure that electrical power going underground is deenergized, locked, and tagged out as appropriate for conditions.
 - b. Ensure the fan is operating
 - c. Maintain an accurate check-in/check-out system of people entering and leaving the mine.
 - d. Assume water and poisonous gases are always present until proven otherwise.
 - e. All personal equipment must be kept calibrated and maintained in proper working condition at all times.
- Evaluate the situation status including the following information:
 - a. Location and number of employees involved in investigation.
 - b. Establish communications (if possible, maintain communication at all times).
 - c. Check involved area on map (up-to-date, elevation, location of old or abandoned works, distance to surface and escapeways).
 - d. Check fan.
 - (1) Maintain for operation
 - (2) Check for charts and gauges
 - (3) Monitor return air for gases

2. INVESTIGATION DATA COLLECTION

- Investigate incident scene and question witnesses and management to obtain details leading to the cause of the incident.
- Check available mine records relating to the incident.
- Interview all witnesses and other personnel having potential knowledge of the incident.
- Issue appropriate Notices of Violation and Orders of Closure as the situation may necessitate.
- Update the supervisor prior to the end of the normal working day on preliminary details and status of investigation.

3. DETAIL REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

- A report will be prepared after the investigation is completed by the Inspector or Specialist. The complete report will render circumstances/cause of the incidents and contain recommendations for the prevention of similar incidents. DM personnel will provide a copy of the certificate of inspection to the mine operator or his agent, one copy to the employee's representative, and one copy will be posted at a prominent place on the mining premises where it may be reviewed by the employees.